

Message from President Cook

April 12, 2023

Hello everyone. I think spring is finally here or I was told earlier today that we're going to skip spring go straight to summer. I guess we will see. Fingers crossed! There's a lot happening on campus as we wind down the semester so I want to start by providing some kudos to things that are happening.

So, first and foremost congratulations to our three graduate students who received awards through the National Science Graduate Research Fellowship program so that's the NSF. First, it's Odalis Garcia, Drew Jordahl, and Amy Schiro are all recent recipients. These are highly competitive awards with more than 12,000 STEM students competing. So, we're very proud of what they've accomplished there.

Congratulations to our engineering Geowall team for bringing home the national championship. So, national is pretty cool. The objective of the competition was to design and build a mechanically stabilized earth retaining wall using paper reinforced taped to poster board. So, I'm not sure I could pull that off but I have to say that sounds like a great experiential learning opportunity for future engineers and kudos to the team there for pulling off the national championship.

Theater NDSU also brought home national recognition with eight awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for their performance of Alabaster. My wife and I were fortunate enough to watch the performance and absolutely loved it. It's unbelievable! So, kudos to them.

Three NDSU students were recently nominated for the YWCA Cass Clay's 50th annual Women of the Year award. So, congratulations to Kayla Jones, Heather Gades, and Natalie Lemnus. Congratulations to each of you and thank you for your hard work to do some really important work in improving our community. So, thank you there.

Congratulations also to our Tapestry of Inclusion recipients. So, we have Lisa Arnold, Sashi Bhushan, Seinquis Leinen, and Siavash Mansouri. Our campus is stronger because of your contributions and advocacy for diversity and inclusion. So, very proud of what you're doing there. All right so finally, congratulations to

Dr. Jessica Striker in the department of mathematics for her recent NSF Grant on Combinatorial objects and actions in higher dimensional settings. These are really hard. NSF grants are hard to get, period and they're especially difficult in the mathematics arena. So, we're very proud of her and for what she's accomplished there. So, kudos. So, these are just a few of the things.

I could probably go on and on about all the great things that are happening on campus but those are a couple of the fun ones.

One other big announcement you may or may not have noticed that on Monday this week President Biden signed a joint resolution terminating the national emergency concerning COVID that was originally declared on March 13 2020. So, all COVID related information will be

removed from our website, but our student services and health folks will continue to be a resource on campus if you have any concerns that relate to COVID.

So, beyond that we have a fun event that's coming up on Wednesday April 26th at 8 A.M. We'll be taking over Emerging Prairie StartupBREW. This is a weekly event that explores the local entrepreneurial community. So, we have a couple of former students and a current student graduates, Brittany Diederich and Cody Shevich, and one current student Jack Lingle will be speaking about the companies they founded. So, inspired no doubt from their time at NDSU. So, that's very exciting and you're going to hear me talk a lot about entrepreneurship and startups and all the rest and this will be a great event for you all to attend. It is again April 26th at Brewhalla which is another fun, cool exciting place here in Fargo.

I hope you all come by and pick up on the entrepreneurial spirit. All right so, with the warm weather we're also forecasting a significant snowmelt. Not new to our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, I know, but I just want to say a quick thank you to our students, faculty, and staff for volunteering to sandbag. I know the city, I know the community, is incredibly grateful for all your hard work. So, I appreciate the volunteering spirit I see here every day with what all you do. I appreciate you stepping up and really being a partner with our community helping with this sandbag.

So, all of that said I am joined here today by a student, Austin, who I think wants to come join me here. I promised him he could he could become a celebrity so come on over Austin. He's following me for the day so there you go. He's learning what it means to be a president, I guess.

But so, Austin, put it up there and let's say Go Bison! Go Bison! Have a great spring everyone.

Thank you!